

10 FAM 300 FOREIGN INTERNATIONAL VISITOR PROGRAM

10 FAM 310 GENERAL INFORMATION

(TL:PEC-01; 10-01-1999)

10 FAM 311 PURPOSE

(TL:PEC-01; 10-01-1999)

This is a consolidated guide for the selection, briefing and programming of foreign international visitors, both grantees and voluntary visitors, who are programmed by ECA's Office of International Visitors (ECA/PE/V).

10 FAM 312 AUTHORITY

(TL:PEC-01; 10-01-1999)

International visitor programs are conducted under the authority of Pub. L. 87-256, the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961, as amended.

10 FAM 313 OBJECTIVES

(TL:PEC-01; 10-01-1999)

The International Visitor Program seeks to contribute to U.S. foreign policy goals by enabling key foreign nationals to gain and convey to their countrymen an in-depth understanding of the context in which U.S. decisions affecting other nations are made. As a result of their observations, experiences and discussions in the United States, participants in the program also:

- (1) Gain accurate, first hand perceptions of life in the United States;
- (2) Develop and strengthen professional and personal ties with people in the United States and U.S. institutions; and
- (3) Give people who they meet in the United States a better understanding of the societies, cultures and aspirations of their own countries.

10 FAM 314 OPERATING BASIS

(TL:PEC-01; 10-01-1999)

The International Visitor Program is comprised of the following.

10 FAM 314.1 Grant Program (ECA/PE/V/G)

(TL:PEC-01; 10-01-1999)

The Grant Program authorizes the following financial benefits in whole or in part: international and U.S. transportation, a return excess baggage allowance, an international travel allowance, per diem, an educational and cultural allowance, and a tuition and related expenses allowance, if required.

10 FAM 314.2 Voluntary Visitor Program (ECA/PE/V/F)

(TL:PEC-01; 10-01-1999)

The Voluntary Visitor Program offers professional programming assistance in the United States to international visitors whose travel to this country is generally funded by sources other than the U.S. Government. Financial benefits may include U.S. transportation, per diem, and an educational and cultural allowance.

10 FAM 315 DEFINITION OF TERMS

(TL:PEC-01; 10-01-1999)

a. **International Visitor**—All foreign participants, grantee or voluntary, in short-term, non-academic programs administered by ECA's Office of International Visitors (ECA/PE/V), are International Visitors (IVS). Where participant or visitor is used in this text, we refer to both grantees and voluntary visitors.

b. **Types of Grantee/Voluntary Visitor Projects:**

(1) **Individual.** Programs are arranged for individual participants to meet the objectives of nominating posts. The vocational interests of the visitor and suggestions from missions abroad, Washington, D.C. staff, and private non profit program agency officers are taken into consideration in the arrangement of programs.

(2) **Group.** Group programs are usually pre-planned. There are three types of group projects:

(a) **Single country**—when the group is composed of participants from the same country;

(b) **Regional**—when the participants are from two or more countries in the same geographic region;

(c) **Multi-regional (MRP)**. When the participants represent at least two regions of the world. Participants in MRPs usually must be fluent in English. Group programs in all three categories are designed around a single professional, thematic, technical, or special interest topic.

c. **Reception Center**. A reception center is a Department office located at a major U.S. point of entry to provide reception and local programming services for international visitors. A Center is maintained in New York (ECA/PE/V/C/N).

d. **Program Agency**. A program agency is a private, non profit organization responsible, under a cooperative agreement with the Department, for planning and implementing International Visitor projects with guidance and direction from the Department.

e. **ECA/PE/V Program Officer**—The ECA/PE/V program officer is responsible for overseeing all aspects of the IV experience for funded and unfunded international visitors. In addition, the ECA/PE/V/F program officer is responsible for about 40% of all programs and directs the planning and day-to-day monitoring of particular projects as well as their financial administration.

f. **Program Agency Program Officer**—The program agency program officer is the officer at the program agency responsible for the planning and day-to-day monitoring of a particular IV's program as well as the financial administration of the grant. This arrangement pertains to 100% of ECA/PE/V/G projects and approximately 60% of the ECA/PE/V/F projects.

g. **Escort Interpreter**—A staff officer of the Department of State's Language Services Division (LS), or a qualified interpreter under contract, is assigned to escort and interpret for International Visitors requiring such services. Both LS's services and escort interpreter costs are paid by the Bureau.

h. **English Language Escort Officer (ELEO)**. An escort is an officer of the Department, another Government agency or a private citizen under contract, who is assigned to escort an individual or group: An escort is assigned when:

- (1) An International Visitor's rank/position requires an escort;
- (2) The visitor lacks international experience or is from a culture substantially different from the United States;
- (3) When the visitor has reservations about his or her ability to travel alone and to carry out a full program; or

(4) When the group's program and movements will be facilitated by an escort.

(i) **Local Sponsor**—A local sponsor is an individual or entity in a U.S. community which accepts responsibility for arranging an International Visitor's program in that locality on a voluntary basis.

(j) **NCIV**—The National Council for International Visitors (NCIV) is a private, non profit organization whose 103 member organizations arrange professional programs and home hospitality for foreign visitors across the U.S. for the Department and AID. Member community groups raise funds locally to help meet their financial needs.

(k) **English Language Requirements**—Proficiency in English is highly desirable, but required only for participants in multi-regional and European regional projects. Participants in these programs must have, in the post's best judgment, at least an S 3/R 3 knowledge of English. A proficiency of at least S 3/R 3 is essential if a visitor is to travel in the United States without an escort interpreter. The ECA/PE/V/G or ECA/PE/V/F officers will request the services of an escort interpreter if visitors do not meet these levels. Occasionally, a visitor will need an escort interpreter only for the early days of the visit while the visitor is gaining confidence brushing up on his or her English.

10 FAM 316 THROUGH 319 UNASSIGNED